(c) During 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (upto December, 1993), the number of prosecution launched and conviction awarded are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of Prosecutions Launched and Convictions Awarded

Year	*Prosecution launched*	*Convictions*
1991-92	552	56
1992-93	442	58
1993-94 (upto December 1993)	273	82

Basis of E.C. allocation of urea

5059. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the basis of E.C. allocation of urea to different manufactures in the country ;

(b) whether it is a fact that freight is borne by Government for transportation of the fertilizer and a lot of amount is spent for transportation from far away places when urea fertilizer is available at near places ; and

(c) what steps Government is taking for rationalizing the E.C. allocation to avoid wasteful expenditure on freight ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) Allocation of urea from manufacturers to states is made keeping in view the following broad principles :

(i) By and large, no State is made dependent on one manufacturer for supply of urea and no manufacturer is made dependent on one State for marketing its urea : and

(ii) criss-cross movement of urea and movements involving long haulages are avoided to the extent possible. Rationalisation is a continuous process and in order to minimise transportation post, Government pays a single equated freight for indigenously produced urea and a normative freight for imported urea moved from production centres/ ports to States under allocation.

Cotton production in Punjab

5060. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the cotton production in the State of Punjab in the present year ;

(b) whether there is any fall in production. if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is all time record of high cotton prices in Punjab this year ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the benefit of the high prices has not fully gone to farmers and instead has gone to the middle men and the mill owners ; and

(e) what steps Government is taking to watch the interest of farmers in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to present assessment the production of cotton in Punjab during 1993-94 is likely to be about 17.27 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

(b) Yes, Sir. The fall in the production of cotton in Punjab during 1993-94 is attributed to pests (Heliothis) attack.

(c) The wholesale prices of cotton on the whole in Punjab during 1993-94 was quoted much higher than the preceding years.

(d) and (e) The prices of kapas (raw cotton) have been continuously ruling at higher level that the minimum support prices from the beginning of the cotton season and therefore, the farmers are expected to have received the benefit of the higher prices.

Construction of Warehouse etc. at baramat by CWC

5061. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

why Central Warehousing Corporation has not initiated any action for having its own constructed Regional Office and Construction Cell and Warehouse at Barasat, Lake Depot as assured by the Food Minister earlier.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : For construction of Central Warehousing Corporation's own office building for Regional Office/Construction Cell at Calcutta, the Corporation have booked 1,000 sq. ft. space with Calcutta port Trust authorities in response to their advertisement for building office complex.

Construction of Warehouse at Barasat would depend interalia upon availability of suitable and viable business.

For setting up of a Warehouse at Lake Depot, no land is available in this locality for the purpose. As such there is no proposal for construction of Warehouse at Lake Depot of Calcutta by the Corporation.

Theft incidents at CWC

5062. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two theft incidents took place at CWC, C.K. Road, as a consequence of which 6 group 'C' and 'D' employees were penalised by suspending them by the CWC management ; and

(b) why the suspension orders have not been revoked against them till finalisation of enquiry by the management or police authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that at Central Warehouse, C.K. Road, two thefts had occurred on 29-10-92 and 24-7-93. In one of the theft incidents, one Junior Technical Assistant, 3 Warehouse Assistants Grade II, and one chowkidar were placed under suspension as they were held under lock-up by police for more than 48 hours. In the 2nd incident of theft, another chowkidar was placed under suspension. In view of the seriousness of the irregularities/allegation, the Suspension Review Committee as well as the competent authority have not considered it appropriate to revoke the suspension order at this stage.

Closing of hired godowns in Calcutta by CWC

5063. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the inadequate business, CWC Calcutta closed a number of hired godowns since 1991 although the same have been hired for low rent ;

(b) what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what are the reasons for the non-completion of construction work of CWC Bonhooghly, CFS, Calcutta by the construction cell within the prescribed time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Central Warehousing Corporation had closed a number of hired godowns in Calcutta since 1991 due to the following reasons :—

1. Withdrawal of reservations by bulk depositors viz FCI, STC etc. where godowns were hired for their exclusive use.

2. Due to continued financial losses and inadequate business.

3. On account of unstorage worthy conditions of the godowns.

(c) The Corporation is setting up 18,000 Metric Tonnes capacity godowns at Bonhooghly. The above work was awarded in July 1992 and was to be completed in two years i.e. upto July, 1994. One godown of 5000 Metric Tonnes is nearing completion and balance capacity is also at roof level. All efforts are being made to complete entire capacity in the targeted period.